

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/691,781

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

KELLY BEKKER

1781

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/23/10.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Diane Dunn McKay on august 23, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend Claim 4 as follows:

Claim 4. A process for preparing cooked rice in an aseptic package which comprises the sequential steps of:

washing long grain rice with only purified water[-];

soaking the long grain washed rice with the purified water and with a first solution of emulsified oil for two to three minutes, said emulsified oil is selected from glycerin fatty acid ester, D-sorbitol fatty acid ester, polyglycerin fatty acid ester, propyleneglycol fatty acid ester and ilshin ester;

removing the purified water from the long grain rice;

filling the soaked long grain rice automatically in a heat-resisting plastic container;

repeating 4 to 10 times sterilization of the container filled with the long grain rice by [~~intermittently~~] applying high pressure steam at a temperature of 130°C-150°C and for 4 to 8 seconds each time;

making a second solution of emulsified oil;

adding [~~an amount of a~~] half of the second solution of emulsified oil to the sterilized rice before [~~a~~] the step of cooking the rice;

cooking the long grain rice with [~~a~~] said half of the second solution of emulsified oil as a liquid for cooking; and

Art Unit: 1781

adding ~~[the same amount of the]~~ the remaining portion of the second solution of emulsified oil to the cooked long grain rice, and

hermetically sealing the plastic container under aseptic conditions and packaging the resultant cooked rice.

Please amend the abstract as follows:

Please start the text of lines 5-12, beginning with the words "More particularly" on line 4 after the words "smooth mouthfeel. " so that the abstract consists of one paragraph.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's arguments, discussed in the remarks filed June 23, 2010 with regards to the prior art rejection have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 103(a) rejection of claim 4 has been withdrawn. The closest prior art of record, Komatsu and Meyer do not teach or suggest the instantly claimed method. Specifically none of the prior art references teach or suggest the claimed sequential method steps, including the step of soaking the long grain washed rice with the purified water and with a first solution of emulsified oil for two to three minutes, wherein the emulsified oil is selected from glycerin fatty acid ester, D-sorbitol fatty acid ester, polyglycerin fatty acid ester, propyleneglycol fatty acid ester and ilshin ester; multiple sterilization steps, wherein the container is later sealed; and adding half a solution of emulsified oil to the rice before and after cooking.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 1781

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KELLY BEKKER whose telephone number is (571)272-2739. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Keith Hendricks can be reached on (571) 272-1401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kelly Bekker/
Examiner
Art Unit 1781